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OF  
Psychology

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Book reviews

Carl P. Duncan

Necrologies

E. R. Hilgard

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# The American Journal of Psychology

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William E. Kappauf   Leo J. Postman   Norman E. Spear

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## Heinrich Klüver: 1897-1979

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Heinrich Klüver, Professor Emeritus of Biological Psychology at the University of Chicago, died on February 8, 1979, at the age of 81.

Klüver was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on May 25, 1897. He served as an infantryman in the German army during World War I. Toward the end he received a minor wound which he claimed may have saved his life, in that it caused him to be sent back to a base hospital just before the final Allied assault. Life in postwar Germany was difficult, and for a time he shipped on a fishing boat out of Hamburg. This gave him plenty of food but somewhat deadened any subsequent enthusiasm for fish. From 1920 to 1923 he studied at the universities of Hamburg and Berlin. In 1923 he embarked on a freighter bound from Hamburg to California via the Panama Canal.

Arriving in California, he enrolled at Stanford, where he received his Ph.D. one year later and accepted an invitation to be an instructor at the University of Minnesota. There he met Karl S. Lashley, whom he admired tremendously and who was to exert a great influence on him. He also met Carney Landis and began a close friendship that lasted until Landis's death.

When Lashley left in 1928 to go to the Behavior Research Fund in Chicago, he took Klüver and Landis with him. Klüver subsequently followed Lashley to the University of Chicago, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was made Professor of Experimental Psychology in 1938 and in 1957 was named Sewell L. Avery Distinguished Service Professor of Biological Psychology, a chair which he continued to occupy on an emeritus basis after his retirement until his death. During all this time the University maintained his laboratory for him. In his early years he travelled widely, but toward the end, as his health began to fail, he kept faithfully to a daily routine of walking to his laboratory, eating at the faculty Quadrangle Club, and then returning to his nearby apartment. He read widely professionally and otherwise, having acquired the habit during his life in the trenches at the front.

Nominally attached to the psychology department, he refused any undergraduate or graduate teaching, and kept steadfastly to his laboratory, letting his research productivity justify his University support. He had little sympathy with the intricacies of academic politics and administration, and once denied President Robert Maynard Hutchins access to his laboratory on the grounds that Hutchins was no scientist and had no business in a laboratory (though one suspects Klüver's wry sense of humor prompted his having a little fun with Hutchins). Certainly the last president he served under, John T. Wilson, a long-standing friend and scientist as well, was received as a welcome visitor.

Klüver's early work on eidetic imagery led him to investigate the hallucinations attributable to mescal, and his monograph, *Mescal and Mechanisms of*

*Hallucination*, has survived many reprintings and is still a standard reference in the field. His dedication to research was illustrated on a vacation one summer on a New Hampshire farm, where he became bored after a few days separation from his laboratory and began investigating the effects of mescal on the farmer's cow. He overestimated the ameliorating effects of body weight on dosage size and the cow died. Klüver confessed his guilt and reimbursed the farmer, but as Klüver said, "He took it unpleasantly". Klüver also used himself as subject and consequently suffered an attack of mescal poisoning that left him seriously ill for a while.

His "Behavior Mechanisms in Monkeys" was an important study of learning in monkeys, but he was interested in all aspects of their behavior, aesthetic and emotional as well. His attention to the effects of mescal on monkeys led to his experiments with Paul Bucy on the extirpation of their temporal lobes, and the discovery of the famous Klüver-Bucy Syndrome. He also did extensive longitudinal studies demonstrating that monkeys are subject to most of the diseases that plague their human relatives.

While he was working on the *Porphyrines* and *Porphyria* the breadth of his interest was exemplified by a telephone call he made to me asking me to drive him to the Brookfield Zoo to collect two dead alligators offered him for dissection. Unfortunately, the alligators turned out to be too large for the car and the project was dropped.

Perhaps the outstanding example of his dedication to science and his loyalty to friends came when Stephen Polyak died before finishing his monumental treatise on the *Vertebrate Visual Systems*. Klüver literally took two years out of his own research life to complete the book and see it into print in 1957, saying simply that it was an important book and someone had to carry it through.

All this naturally led to many honors. A year before his death he told me with a deprecatory grin that he was a member of 37 scientific societies. Many of these memberships were honorary. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. He was particularly proud of his honorary Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg, and his honorary M.D. from Basel. His awards included the Karl Spencer Lashley Award in Neurobiology from the American Philosophical Society, the Samuel W. Hamilton Award from the American Psychopathological Association, the Gold Key Award from the Medical Alumni Association of the University of Chicago, the Gold Medal Award of the American Psychological Foundation, the *Modern Medicine* Distinguished Achievement Award, and the Gold Medal Award of the Eastern Psychiatric Research Association.

Withal he was a modest man and always saw himself and his life in perspective. He viewed himself as a servant of science and lived accordingly. His outstanding traits were this dedication to science, his intellectual integrity, and his loyalty to his friends. He had an ability for friendship; he would remember birthdays and send a warm letter often to mark a special occasion. He ferociously rejected the presence of nonscientists and children in his laboratory, but this was largely a front, and I remember one afternoon when he played with my four-year-old daughter, who pretended she was a monkey while he put her through her laboratory paces.

Bucy once referred to Klüver as a "loner," but I think that was a misnomer.

Essentially he was a shy and diffident man, but he had strong convictions and the courage to back them, and this was sometimes misinterpreted as aggressivity and hostility. He disliked cant and empty social rhetoric. His high standards of scientific conduct and his intense concentration on his laboratory necessarily limited the friends he made, but those he did make will always remember him as a warm and charming gentleman. An ideal man of science, he will be remembered for his brilliance and for his humanity. As a friend remarked after his death, he knew others better than they knew him.

William A. Hunt, *Loyola University of Chicago*